Hahh...
Hahh...
THAT WAY!
I HEARD A SOUND!
Behind a bench in the park...
...little canary-colored flowers swayed at eye level.
I crouched, biting my knees, holding my breath.
Hahh...
...I could see the wings of horseflies beating slowly.
Like a tiny shard of glass falling slowly in the light...
Hahh...
Hahh...
WHEN I'M IN TROUBLE LIKE THIS...
I CAN'T HELP REMEMBERING THAT.
That day...

DAMN! WHERE IS HE?
CATCH HIM AND BEAT HIM!
If they chase me, I can always run.
I vowed never to wait for anything...
Haah...
Haah...

If they catch me...
Huff...
Then I'll die.
Whew...

LET ME BURN YOUR BEAUTIFUL EYES AND HAIR INTO MY EYES.
PLEASE. FOR PITY'S SAKE...
LET ME SEE YOU ONE LAST TIME.
NANA.
I'VE BEEN OUT HERE FOR FOUR HOURS.
PLEASE...
IT'S ME.
HEY, GIGI, OPEN UP.

COME ON IN.
ADORABLE AS EVER, GIGI.
KNOCK IT OFF. I DON'T NEED COMPLIMENTS, AND I'M SICK OF CHOCOLATE.
I IMAGINE.
BUT IF THESE HAVE CHERRIES IN THEM, YOU WON'T NEED A KEY.
Slam
バタン

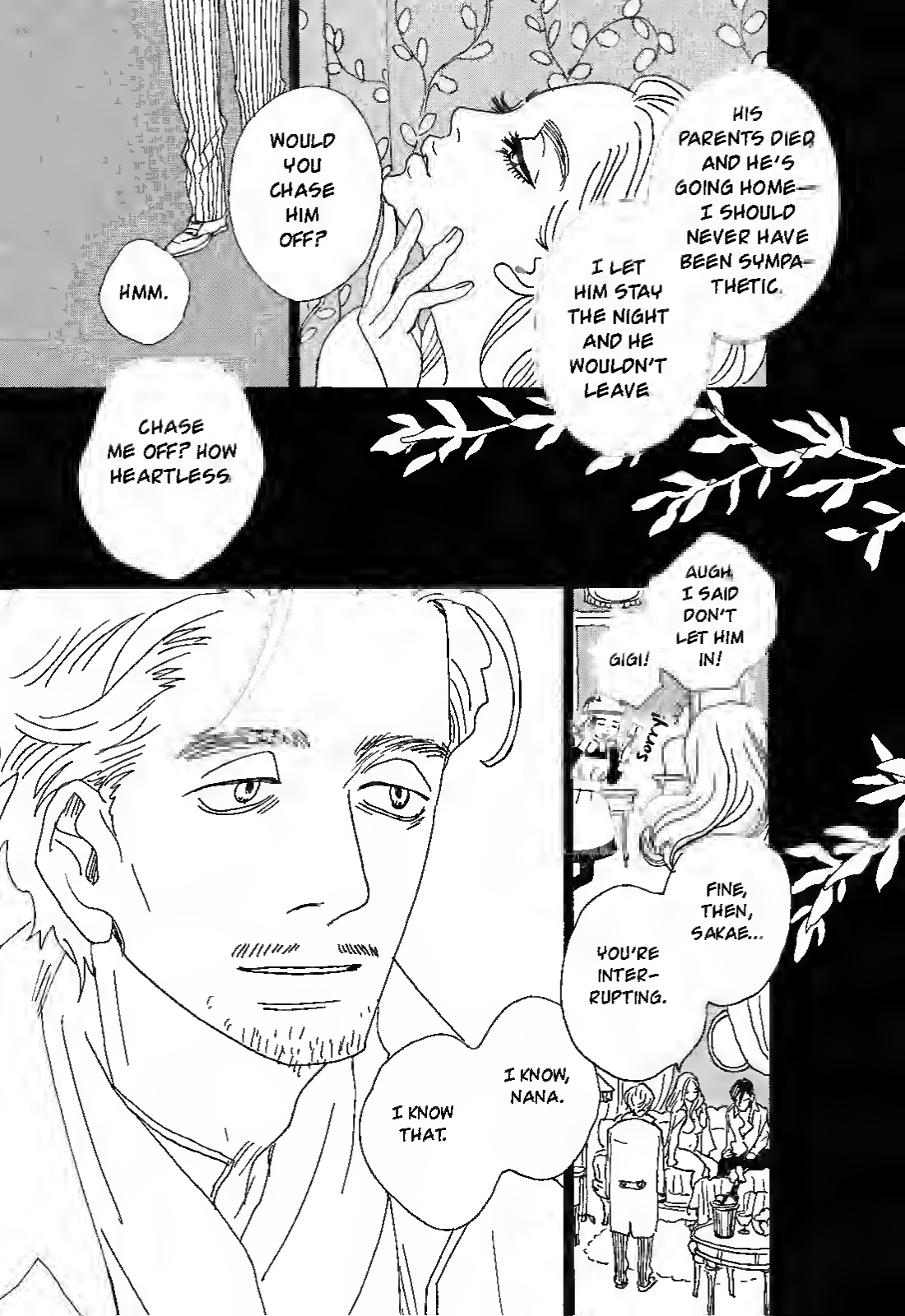
MY, LEON.
HOW DO YOU ALWAYS MANAGE TO GET IN HERE?

YOU SLIP RIGHT PAST THE CONCIERGE...
YOU'VE TAMED OUR PRICKLY LITTLE GIGI...
AND NOW YOU'RE SITTING IN THE BEST CHAIR I HAVE LIKE YOU OWN THE PLACE.

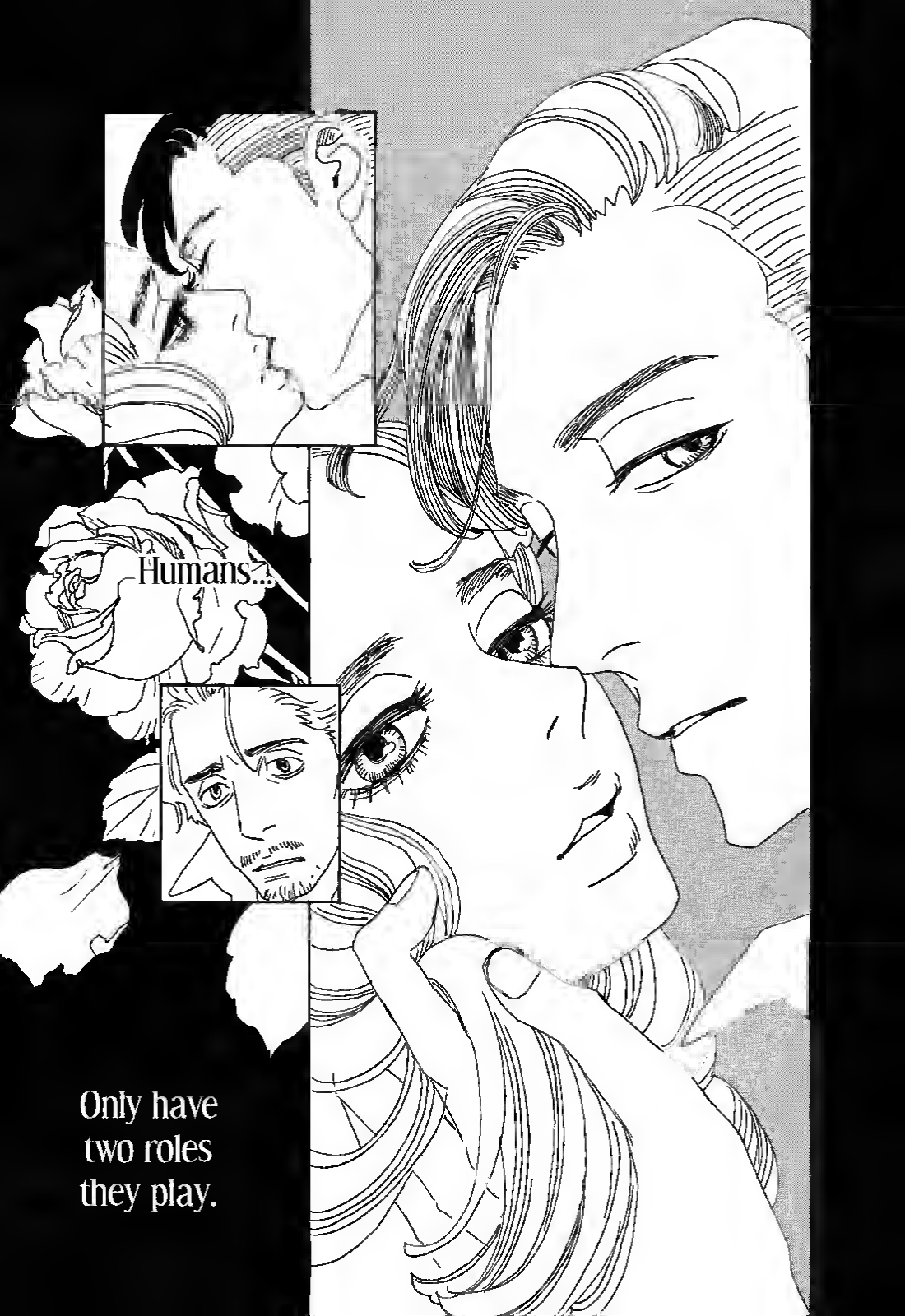
No one at Maison Close would ever set eyes on someone like her.
Nana is the highest level of Grand Horizontal I know.
...is a round, rich, beautiful curve.
Every line of her body...
Place your palm on her and her moisture sticks to you.
Run your fingers down her and she's smoother than silk.

She wears no perfume but her decollete always smells of peaches.
IT'S LIKE A DIFFERENT WORLD HERE
ROSES, BONBONS, PLUMS IN A SILVER BOWL.
CHAMPAGNE, DRESSES, JEWELS.
YOUR GENEROUS BALD PATRON...
HOW MUCH DOES HE SPEND ON YOU EVERY MONTH?
DON'T, LEON.
YOU KNOW I SPEND IT AS SOON AS I GET IT.
NO MATTER WHEN YOU COME, I NEVER HAVE MONEY.

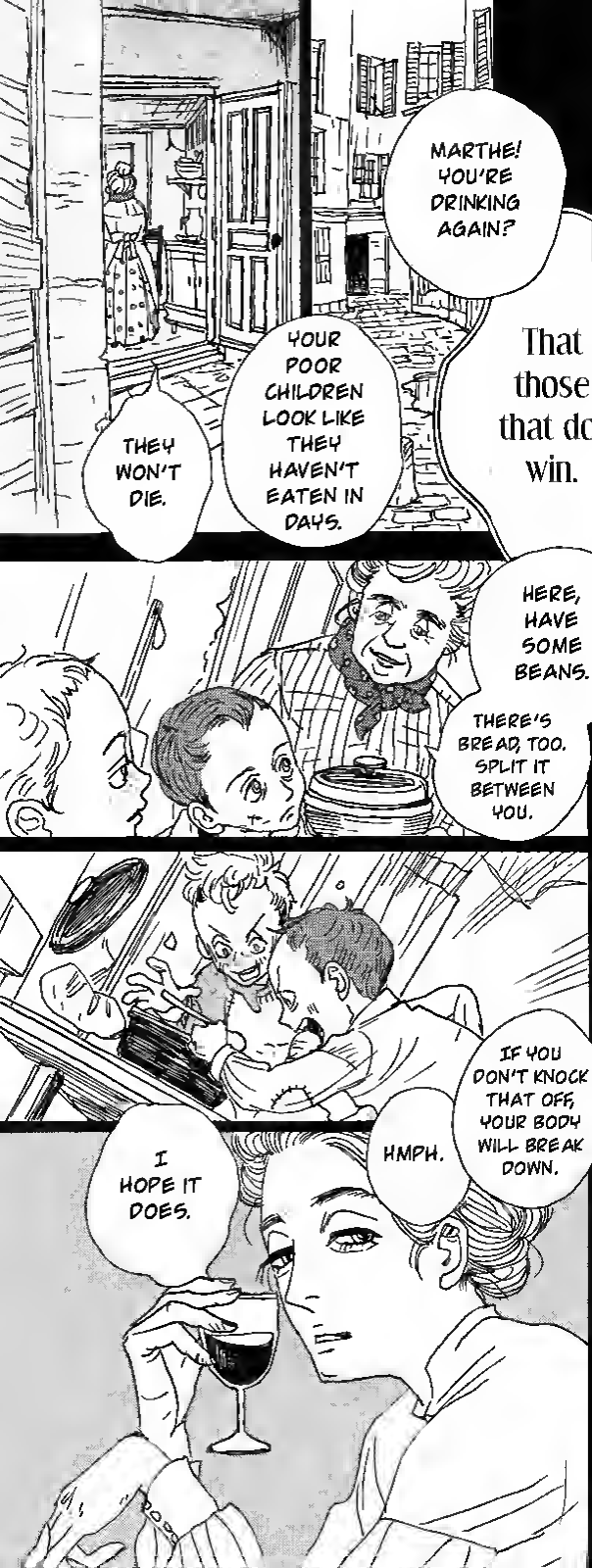
WHAT A SAD STORY.
TWO OF US PENNILESS IN THIS GORGEOUS ROOM.
If I don't have something for them...
They've tracked me here.
Not just penniless...
OH, BY THE WAY...
THERE WAS A CHINAMAN OUT FRONT.
OH, HE'S JAPANESE
HE'S A WRITER, BUT HE'S FAIRLY WELL OFF.


HIS PARENTS DIED AND HE'S GOING HOME— I SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN SYMPATHETIC.
I LET HIM STAY THE NIGHT AND HE WOULDN'T LEAVE
WOULD YOU CHASE HIM OFF?
HMM.
CHASE ME OFF? HOW HEARTLESS
AUGH, I SAID DON'T LET HIM IN!
GIGI!
Sorry!
FINE, THEN, SAKAE...
YOU'RE INTERRUPTING.
I KNOW, NANA.
I KNOW THAT.

I JUST WONDERED..
...WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE WHEN YOU TALK TO HIM.
SEE HOW DIFFERENT IT IS COMPARED TO ME...
...WITH MY OWN EYES.


Humans...
Only have two roles they play.

You decide which you are.
Those who watch...
And those who are watched.
YOU WANNA SEE?
THEN WATCH.
BUT IT'LL BE EXPENSIVE.


MARTHE! YOU'RE DRINKING AGAIN?
YOUR POOR CHILDREN LOOK LIKE THEY HAVEN'T EATEN IN DAYS.
THEY WON'T DIE.
I realized very early on...
That those that do, win.
HERE, HAVE SOME BEANS.
THERE'S BREAD, TOO. SPLIT IT BETWEEN YOU.
IF YOU DON'T KNOCK THAT OFF, YOUR BODY WILL BREAK DOWN.
HMPH.
I HOPE IT DOES.

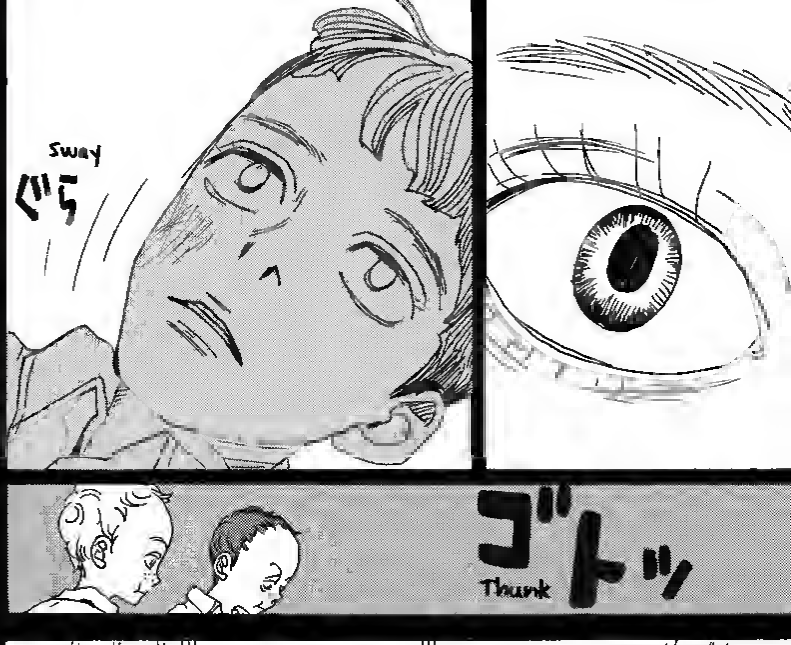
If you don't like the first role, then switch.

...ever paid the slightest attention to me.
Nobody in that poor, dark room...
gobble gobble
EVERY DAY I COULDN'T TELL WHEN I WOKE UP..
AND DIDN'T KNOW IF I WANTED TO WAKE UP
My fingers had wasted away till they looked like carved ivory.
My brothers took all the bread, kicking me away.
Nobody ever looked at me.
My mother, the nice old lady...
He went to some other woman and isn't coming back.
I wish I was dead.
I was like a speck of dust on a small grey ship.
Don't talk like that!

From the time I was born until that moment...

...without thinking about it...

...I'd been on the watching side.



But that day I stopped watching.

IDIOT.
NO, SERIOUSLY!
HE ISN'T BREATHING...
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP THIS UP FOR LONG.
I was acting to get attention, with an extra trick added.
HEH, LIAR.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?
WHY'S HE LYING THERE...?
HE'LL CATCH COLD!

I made a conscious choice to be watched, instead.

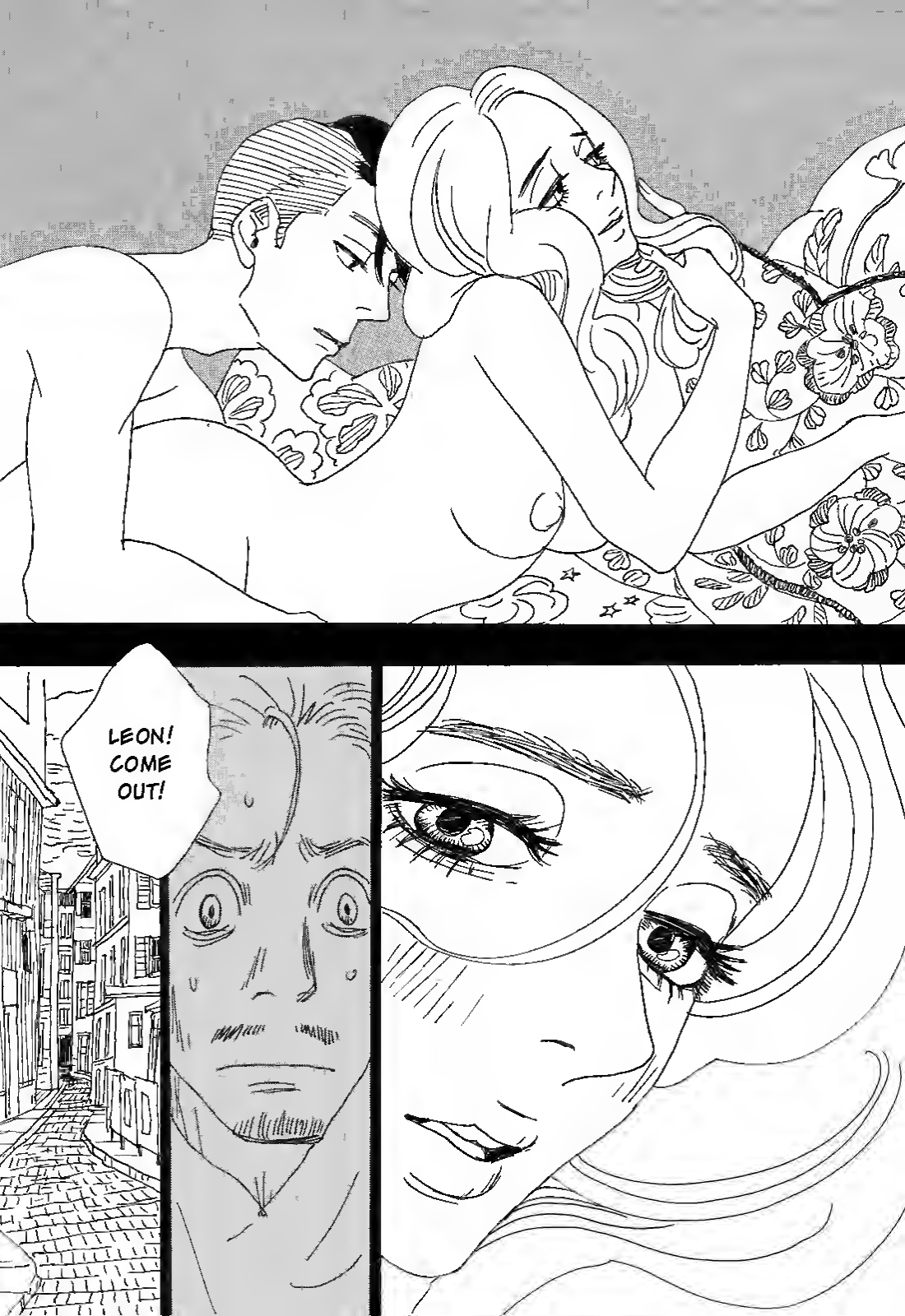
HE ISN'T BREATHING!
YOUR SON...
MARTHE!!
OH, GOD, THIS BOY...
I was good at holding my breath.
I TOLD YOU THEY WEREN'T GETTING ENOUGH FOOD!
As everyone scrambled around, I kept it held.
LEON!
LEON!
I waited for the despair to set in.

When I heard her pray for me to open my eyes...
I opened them as if a miracle had occurred

Yes.

Oh.

I'll show you.


LEON!
COME
OUT!

MA'AM.
WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
THUGS, COMING UP THE STAIRS.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
Mmm...
AT TIMES WHEN I'M IN TROUBLE LIKE THIS...

HEY.
CAN I ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR?
...the scrawny girl with short hair...
I suddenly find myself remembering...
...and eyes like the winter sky.